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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 264

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

JULY, 1965

Montana Economy Exhibits Good Seasonal Strength

Non-Farm Jobs Increase 5,700—The Montana economy flexed its muscles during June with widespread hiring in fields of industry and commerce. Employment estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that 5,700 wage earners were added to industry payrolls during the month of June. This brought the statewide non-farm employment total to 183,200, the highest June employment of record. The final employment figure for May was 177,500, up 900 from the preliminary estimate.

Completes Six Month Cycle—June was the sixth consecutive month to reflect increased employment over the same month of last year. It was also the first month this year showing employment advances in all of the basic industry groups over the prior month.

Trade-Service Hiring Active—The prevalence of a high level of summer tourist traffic and good consumer buying trends spurred more hiring by trade and service firms. Service units added 1,300 workers to June payrolls, while employment in trade establishments expanded by 900 workers. Shortages of cooks, waitresses, and maids existed throughout the month in many areas of the state.

Construction Has 12,900—A good schedule of building and highway projects employed 12,900 workers during June, up 900 both from the May total and from the June, 1964 employment figure for that industry. A few new commercial building projects were

completed including a new store at Butte. Furloughed workers went on to other building jobs. New starts included a \$1 million motel at Butte and a \$475,000 lumber storage facility at Libby, among others.

Government Up 1,300—The seasonal employment upswing in the forest, national parks, irrigation, and other government services gained more momentum during June. Job gains were all at the federal level with an increase of 1,600 workers. Employment at state and local levels of government showed a deficit of 300 from May as school let out for the season.

Manufacturing Shows Good Gain—Payrolls in manufacturing were up 1,100 during June to a total of 14,400. Other than the lumber industry, activity in manufacturing showed little or no change either from last year or last month. Lumber payrolls posted an increment of 1,000 workers during June, but fell 200 short of year ago totals. Recovery from the spring break-up period was later this year and accounts for much of this loss. Employment expansion in both logging and mills will continue throughout the next two months. Shortages of timber fallers have existed in several areas during the past two months.

Other Gains Less—Three other major industry groups recorded moderate employment advances during June. Statewide mining payrolls, which include metal mining, coal and quarrying, and petroleum and natural gas pro-

duction, moved upward by 200. The latter two groups posted gains of 100 each while employment in metal mining did not change. Gains of 100 each were recorded by the transportation, communications, and utilities group, and by finance, insurance and real estate firms.

Brisk Farm Labor Demand—The demand for farm and ranch workers accelerated during late June with the start of the hay season and the upcoming grain harvest. Some worker shortages developed as the itinerant labor force was below former years. Grain crop prospects appear good despite hail damage in a few areas. The sweet cherry harvest in the Flathead area will require but a minimum of pickers and warehouse workers. Trees damaged by frost in the early growing season are expected to yield but ten per cent of a normal crop.

Job Placements Up 19%—The twenty-two local offices of the Montana State Employment Service placed 12,581 workers in jobs in industry and agriculture during June, reflecting a 19% increase from the same month last year. Employers listed 4,251 non-farm job openings with these offices during the month, up 705 from June a year ago. The statewide count of active registered jobseekers exceeded last year by 524 for a total of 13,445. Several thousand of this number were young people registered for summer employment under the Youth Opportunity Campaign.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	May 1965	Apr. 1965	May 1964	May 1965	Apr. 1965	May 1964	May 1965	Apr. 1965	May 1964	May 1965	Apr. 1965	May 1964	May 1965	Apr. 1965	May 1964
All Manufacturing	5.0	4.7	5.7	4.3	3.8	4.8	4.1	3.5	3.6	2.4	2.1	2.6	.9	.7	.3
Durable Goods	6.1	5.9	7.0	5.2	4.7	6.0	4.8	4.6	4.3	2.8	2.8	3.1	1.0	.9	.3
Primary Metal	2.7	5.8	4.4	2.4	3.8	2.9	1.8	3.0	3.6	1.0	1.3	1.7	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods	3.0	2.6	3.1	2.7	2.2	2.6	2.9	1.6	2.0	1.7	.9	1.6	.7	.3	.1
All Mining	6.9	8.8	8.9	3.9	3.4	6.3	7.8	7.9	6.6	4.1	3.4	3.8	1.8	1.5	.7
Metal Mining	6.3	7.6	6.2	1.8	1.3	3.9	5.7	7.5	7.5	3.6	3.4	4.5	.3	1.6	.3

*Less Than .05

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for June 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—(443 jobseekers, 193 new, 317 men, 126 women). June job hires registered good seasonal upswing with most labor demand in manufacturing and construction. Many young people employed in summer work. Trade and service volume near summer peak.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(1,460 jobseekers, 692 new, 996 men, 464 women). Job hiring compares favorably with last year but declined from May when heavy hiring occurred. Good schedule of building and heavy construction active in the area with most projects now fully staffed. June building permits total \$1.4 million. Trade and service employment keeps steady trends with some shortages of restaurant workers. Farm labor demand exceeds last year with expected shortages of experienced irrigators and hay hands.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(311 jobseekers, 412 new, 153 men, 158 women). Mixed trends dominated June labor market activities. Industrial job placements declined by 10 per cent from last year while farm hiring was up by 17 per cent. High employment levels being maintained in construction, logging and sawmills, and in trade and service firms. Farm labor shortages developing.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,427 jobseekers, 685 new, 896 men, 531 women). Substantial upswing noted in new job applications as many young workers seek summer work. Good labor demand in mining, trade, and government during June.

CUT BANK—(208 jobseekers, 51 new, 157 men, 51 women). More construction hiring and recruitment of farm workers at forefront of June activity. Federal housing projects, flood rehabilitation work, and general building required more workers.

DILLON—(95 jobseekers, 109 new, 61 men, 34 women). Labor trends in industry and farm at exceptionally good seasonal levels. Some farm work delayed by rain during much of June. Farm wages range from \$150 to \$200 per month with keep. Good agenda of small building and remodeling projects active.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(299 jobseekers, 130 new, 217 men, 82 women). Job hiring shows some decline from last year with less demand in trade, construction, and

	June 65	May 65	June 64	May 65 to June 65	June 64 to June 65
Civilian Work Force	269.8	250.6	269.9	19.2	—1
Total Employment	259.4	241.1	258.2	18.3	1.2
Total Non-agricultural Employment	215.1	206.5	213.3	8.6	1.8
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	183.2	177.5	181.3	5.7	1.9
Total Agricultural Employment	44.3	34.6	44.9	9.7	—6
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	.2		
Total Unemployment	10.2	9.3	11.5	.9	—1.3
Percent Unemployed	3.8	3.7	4.3		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	4.4	6.1		

service industries. Wet weather during June slowed work on two highway projects and farm activities. Some government hiring noted at Air Base and at Fort Peck.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(250 jobseekers, 108 new, 153 men, 97 women). June weather generally favorable for construction and other outdoor work. Good progress being made on three new buildings along with new homes. Trade and service employment holds to good seasonal lines. Sugar beet field work employs 390.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,446 jobseekers, 805 new, 719 men, 727 women). Bulk of June labor demand was chiefly in trade and service firms as tourism increased with return of more favorable weather. Peak construction employment expected to carry over until winter months. Moderate hiring occurred weekly at smelter operations. Active jobseeker register shows sharp rise as younger workers seek summer employment.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(325 jobseekers, 167 new, 221 men, 104 women). Trends in logging, lumbering, and construction continue to exhibit healthy seasonal advances. Several new buildings and remodeling projects in progress. New store to open in July. Sugar beet field work main farm activity during June.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(150 jobseekers, 62 new, 79 men, 71 women). Area economic trends fairly active in both industry and agriculture. Over \$1 million in new building projects under way. Oiling of ten mile stretch of road should start soon and employ about 30 men. Trade and service volume increasing as tourist season progresses. Excellent hay and small grain crop yields expected.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(711 jobseekers, 418 new, 365 men, 346 women). Steady labor demand occurred in most industry groups during June. Construction and other outdoor work delayed at times by wet weather. Work waiting to start on new \$3 million hospital. Cooks and waitresses still in short supply. Only fair farm labor demand with adequate supply of workers. Many young people seeking summer work.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(900 jobseekers, 535 new, 630 men, 270 women). Labor demand exceeded May but declined from June of last year. Most jobs gains this year were in manufacturing industries, including lumber. Heavy demand noted for plywood and sawmill workers. Logging work building toward peak. Good schedule of building projects active. Increased tourism spurred hiring by trade and service firms.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(144 jobseekers, 98 new, 67 men, 77 women). Construction highlighted June labor activity with 7 building and 1 road project presently underway in area. Main street employment in trade and service establishments keep steady trends. Farm labor demand above last year.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(157 jobseekers, 72 new, 86 men, 71 women). Intermittent rains during June delayed much outdoor work in construction and agriculture. Good demand for waitresses, maids, and other trade and service occupations in town and Yellowstone Park. Logging active but mill hiring on unsteady basis due to log shortages. Railroad hiring for maintenance down substantially from last year.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(271 jobseekers, 149 new, 149 men, 122 women). Industrial hiring trends show very little

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.6	174.0	181.3	182.3	183.0	180.9	178.2	174.1	172.4	174.3
1965	168.1	167.0	168.3	172.7	177.5	183.2*							

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for June 1

change from last year. Construction volume below past few years. Fairly active seasonal labor demand for trade and service workers. Good farm labor demand in beet and hay fields.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,716 jobseekers, 800 new, 1,083 men, 633 women). Active trends covered most industry segments during June. Seasonally high employment levels were being maintained in construction, logging, manufacturing, and trade and service. Hiring of young workers under the Youth Opportunity Campaign gave work to several hundred in agriculture and industry.

POLSON—(248 jobseekers, 147 new, 197 men, 51 women). Mixed trends showed in labor market conditions from last year. Job hiring in industry doubled from last June but farm hiring declined by nearly one half. Logging and mill employment improving after bad weather and shutdowns. Sweet cherry harvest to start in July with but 20 per cent of normal crop.

SHELBY—(149 jobseekers, 84 new, 105 men, 44 women). Excessive rains cut down on labor demand in construction, oil fields, and agriculture during much of June. Main street hiring not too brisk but expected to improve with increased tourism and more favorable weather. Farm labor demand should pick up next two months.

SIDNEY—(143 jobseekers, 110 new, 64 men, 79 women). Job placements show good improvement over last year as summer work season began in earnest. Employment gains appeared in most industry groups with many young people employed. Most farm work including sugar beet thinning now on normal schedules.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(111 jobseekers, 39 new, 85 men, 26 women). Job placements up 35 per cent from last month with most worker demand from the forest service, logging and lumbering, and the service industry. Increased job openings for women included maids and nurses aides. Logging employment now climbing toward peak for season. Farm labor demand up with start of haying season.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(161 jobseekers, 90 new, 117 men, 44 women). Construction activity below last year with most current projects in highway and street repair contracts. Six oil exploration crews active in area but hiring under last year. One drilling rig shut down during June. Seasonal gains show in trade and service firms. Farm labor front active with sufficient labor supply.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	June 1965 (2)	May 1965 (3)	June 1964	May '65 to June '65	June '65 Against June '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	183,200	177,500	181,300	5,700	1,900
Manufacturing	22,600	21,500	22,500	1,100	100
Durable goods	14,400	13,300	14,500	1,100	— 100
Lumber and timber products	9,100	8,100	9,300	1,000	— 200
Primary metals	3,500	3,500	3,400	00	100
Other (4)	1,800	1,700	1,800	100	00
Nondurable goods	8,200	8,200	8,000	00	200
Food and kindred products	4,300	4,200	4,300	100	00
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,800	1,700	—100	00
Petroleum refining	1,300	1,300	1,200	00	100
Other (5)	900	900	800	00	100
Mining	7,200	7,000	7,700	200	— 500
Metal mining	4,400	4,400	4,900	00	— 500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,100	1,000	900	100	200
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,700	1,600	1,900	100	— 200
Contract Construction	12,900	12,000	12,000	900	900
Contractors, building construction	4,300	4,000	4,100	300	200
Contractors, other than building	4,200	3,700	4,200	500	00
Contractors, special trade	4,400	4,300	3,700	100	700
Transportation and utilities	17,400	17,300	17,900	100	— 500
Interstate railroads	7,600	7,500	7,900	100	— 300
Transportation except railroads	3,800	3,800	3,900	00	— 100
Utilities including communication	6,000	6,000	6,100	00	— 100
Trade	43,100	42,400	41,700	700	1,400
Wholesale trade	8,500	8,500	8,100	00	400
Retail trade	34,600	33,900	33,600	700	1,000
General merchandise and apparel	6,700	6,700	6,200	00	500
Food stores	5,300	5,200	5,100	100	200
Eating and drinking establishments	9,800	9,100	9,400	700	400
Automotive and filling stations	6,900	6,900	6,700	00	200
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	5,900	6,000	6,200	—100	— 300
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,000	6,900	7,100	100	— 100
Services and miscellaneous	25,800	24,500	25,700	1,300	100
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,100	3,000	4,100	1,100	00
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Other (6)	19,600	19,400	19,500	200	100
Government	47,200	45,900	46,700	1,300	500
Federal	12,700	11,100	12,800	1,600	— 100
State and local	34,500	34,800	33,900	—300	600
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,100	22,500	21,800	600	1,300
Manufacturing	3,300	3,300	3,100	00	200
Contract construction	2,900	2,500	1,800	400	1,100
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	— 100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,600	5,600	5,500	00	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,300	00	— 100
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,800	3,600	3,800	200	00
Government	4,200	4,200	4,100	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	25,700	25,100	25,200	600	500
Manufacturing	3,200	3,100	3,000	100	200
Contract construction	1,900	1,600	2,100	300	— 200
Transportation and utilities	2,600	2,600	2,700	00	— 100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,900	7,900	7,500	00	400
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,900	4,800	4,700	100	200
Government	3,800	3,700	3,800	100	00

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 763 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,213 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JUNE 1965 AND JUNE 1964

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	June 1965		June 1964		June 1965		June 1964		June 1965				June 1964				Wk. 7-2	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	198	6	155	3	443	19	245	23	199	34	233	12	131	18	149	14	92	106
Billings	692	141	1 184	139	1 460	309	2 717	486	539	1 549	2 088	206	537	1 264	1 801	203	627	667
Bozeman	412	30	429	40	311	43	253	43	210	72	282	45	243	60	303	40	59	63
Butte	685	58	469	44	1 427	144	1 236	177	308	10	318	21	94	11	105	21	366	459
Cut Bank	51	2	74	8	208	23	340	85	68	116	181	63	50	140	190	57	42	86
Dillon	109	33	91	22	95	17	76	8	39	109	148	49	30	68	98	41	72	25
Glasgow	170	3	169	13	299	14	261	18	99	32	131	20	86	16	102	17	72	61
Glendive	108	5	91	2	250	9	133	8	60	1 170	1 230	6	50	1 107	1 157	8	30	15
Great Falls	805	87	823	69	1 446	152	1 495	232	402	122	524	126	404	140	544	120	418	554
Hamilton	167	6	154	13	325	22	279	25	60	110	170	6	60	229	289	11	64	45
Havre	62	3	89	6	150	15	148	11	91	66	157	26	66	45	111	34	96	70
Helena	418	34	319	26	711	64	554	75	217	451	663	51	267	465	732	72	183	197
Kalispell	535	58	739	49	900	137	1 040	199	256	11	267	52	277	15	292	50	246	299
Lewistown	98	7	93	16	144	11	177	30	60	83	143	22	39	38	77	19	51	85
Livingston	72	3	84		157	5	198	15	135	21	156	18	106	21	127	26	37	57
Miles City	149	7	124	4	271	19	204	14	65	726	791	17	68	700	768	12	35	58
Missoula	800	58	687	74	1 716	176	1 514	221	383	448	831	116	318	499	817	84	194	212
Polson	147	7	138	3	248	24	286	29	60	47	107	13	32	74	106	9	75	60
Shelby	84	7	86	11	149	13	205	22	60	88	148	34	58	31	89	16	56	32
Sidney	110	3	85	10	143	5	180	14	76	2 951	3 027	12	70	3 070	3 140	5	19	24
Thom. Falls	39	7	63	10	111	18	128	24	73	6	79	10	54	9	63	10	30	43
Wolf Point	90	7	52	4	161	17	143	25	27	24	51	10	39	15	54	9	59	58
Billings YOC**	710				1 182				94	23	117							
TOTALS	6,671	574	6,198	566	12,307	1,256	11,812	1,784	3,581	8,269	11,850	958	3,079	8,035	11,114	878	2,923	3,276

*Includes 244 claims of the Fed UI Program 301 same a year ago. **Youth Opportunity Center.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	June (1) 1965	May (2) 1965	June 1964	June (1) 1965	May (2) 1965	June 1964	June (1) 1965	May (2) 1965	June 1964
All Manufacturing	112.03	112.31	109.21	40.3	40.4	40.3	2.78	2.78	2.71
Durable Goods	108.27	109.34	105.44	40.1	40.3	40.4	2.70	2.68	2.61
Primary Metals	110.37	113.55	111.11	39.7	40.7	40.7	2.78	2.79	2.73
Nondurable Goods	118.96	118.11	116.29	40.6	39.5	40.1	2.93	2.99	2.90
Food and Kindred Products	110.16	104.96	107.52	43.2	41.0	42.0	2.55	2.56	2.56
All Mining	119.20	120.90	113.02	39.6	39.9	37.8	3.01	3.03	2.99
Metal Mining	113.16	113.16	115.14	37.1	37.1	38.0	3.05	3.05	3.03
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	112.86	113.15	108.25	39.6	39.7	38.8	2.85	2.85	2.79

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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HELENA, MONTANA

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